

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended, and claims 2, 5 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on September 26, 2005. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the references cited therein and return an initialed PTO/SB/08 to the undersigned.

Claims 1, 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over CHANG, U.S. Patent 5,951,681. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claims 2, 5 and 8 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 4 and 7, respectively. Accordingly, all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

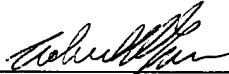

Application No. 10/647,513
Amendment dated October 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2005

Docket No.: 4443-0109P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By  *ROBERT F GAUSE*
 Joe McKinney Muncy *27195*
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant